

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WELLS.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the
Year 1914.

STREET, SOMERSET,
MARCH 11th, 1915.

To the Rural District Council of Wells.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ended December 31st, 1914.

Area. 58,045 Acres.

Population. Census 1911—10,635. Estimated to middle of 1914 to 10,596.

Geology. Dolomitic conglomerate at Chewton Mendip and Westbury; mountain limestone at Priddy; red marl at Dinder, North Wootton and Rodney Stoke; red marl and river gravel at Wookey; lower lias at West Pennard, Baltonsborough, Butleigh and Walton; alluvium and peat at Glastonbury Moor.

Birth Rate. 188 Births registered in the District (106 males, 82 females), giving a birth rate of 17.7 per 100 per annum.

Of the births one was illegitimate—a male.

Two births of *residents* (illegitimate—one male, one female), occurred *outside* the District. The corrected birth rate for the District is therefore 17.9 per 1000 per annum.

Death Rate. 184 Deaths (74 males 110 females) were registered in the district, giving a death rate of 17.3 per 1000 per annum.

92 Deaths of *non-residents* were registered in the district, and 11 deaths of *residents* were registered *outside* the district. The nett death rate at all ages belonging to the district is therefore 9.5 per 1000 per annum, giving a standardized death rate for age and sex distribution of 7.85650.

The Zymotic death rate *nett* is 0.18, and the Infant Mortality per 1000 *nett* births is 84.2; 16 *nett* deaths under one year being registered.

FOR THE YEAR 1913.

Birth rate per 1000 living	..	..	21.1
Death rate „ „	..	..	13.5
Phthisis death rate per 1000 living..	..	..	0.28
Infant mortality per 1000 births	..	..	93.7

AGES TABLE OF DEATHS.

Under 1 year there were 16 deaths.

1 and under 2 years	„	0	„
2 „ 5 „	„	3	„
5 „ 15 „	„	3	„
15 „ 25 „	„	3	„
25 „ 45 „	„	6	„
45 „ 65 „	„	20	„
65 and upwards	„	50	„

CAUSES OF DEATH OF RESIDENTS,

whether occurring within or without the district, during the year 1914 :—

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	1
Diphtheria	..	..	..	1
Influenza	..	..	..	1
Phthisis, Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	..	6
Other tuberculous disease	..	..	..	1
Cancer, malignant disease	..	..	..	7
Organic Heart disease	..	..	..	24
Bronchitis	..	..	..	10
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	4
Other disease of respiratory organs	..	..	..	1
Enteritis	..	..	..	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	..	..	..	3
Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	..	..	..	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including				
Premature Birth	..	..	..	6
Other defined diseases	..	..	..	28
Diseases ill defined or unknown	..	..	..	6

Water Supply.

At the request of the County Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Savage), the following is a special report on the Water Supplies of the district, for the particulars of which I am indebted to the Inspectors of Nuisances—Mr P. Williams for No. 1 District, and Mr. E. H. Padfield for No. 2 District.

WELLS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL WATER SUPPLIES, NO. 1 DISTRICT.

The Water Supplies in the Upper District (No. 1), are :—

Chewton Mendip—private supply of Lord Waldegrave's.

Dinder—private supply of Mr. A. F. Somerville's.

Dulcote—private supply of Mr. C. C. Tudway's.

Haybridge and Bath Road—supplied by Wells Town Council.

East and West Horrington—supplied by the Wells R.D. Council.

1. Name of the supply—The Horrington Water Supply.
2. By whom provided—The Rural District Council of Wells.
3. Nature of the supply—

Spring in the Watchett Hills, from the old red sandstone, not much chance of contamination.
4. Engineering points—
 - (a) Yield about 4,000 gallons per day in the dryest time.
 - (b) Gravitation.
 - (c) Covered brick reservoir—10,000 gallons capacity.
 - (d) More than enough—reservoir always overflowing.
 - (e) None.
5. Financial particulars—
 - (a) £1,000.
 - (b) No extensions.
 - (c) £6 6s. per annum.
 - (d) Special charge Out Parish of St. Cuthbert.
6. Area supplied—East and West Horrington—Population about 215.

(7) Copy of Analyst's Report :—

West Horrington. Spring.	Total Solids.	Chlorides.	Nitrates.	O. consumed. in 2 hours.	Ammonia.		Hardness.
					Free.	Albuminoid.	
Nr. Wells.	40.0	3.0	Nil.	0.050	0.002	0.006	10.°

A very good water, fit for dietetic use.

HENRY J. ALFORD, F.I.C., F.C.S.,

County Analyst,

Oct. 17th, 1901.

WELLS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL WATER SUPPLIES, NO. 2 DISTRICT.

BALTONSBOROUGH.

1. Name of the supply—Baltonsborough Water Supply.
2. By whom provided—The Wells R.D. Council.
3. Nature of the supply—
 - (a) Obtained by branch main from the Ditcheat Water Supply by agreement with the Shepton Mallet R.D.C. For further particulars as to *a. b. c.* see report of Ditcheat Water Supply.
4. Engineering points—
 - (a) See Ditcheat supply.
 - (b) By gravitation.
 - (c) Concrete covered service reservoir. Capacity 25,000 gallons, and about 9 miles of 3" and 2" mains.
 - (d) Population, 509. Minimum quantity paid for to the Shepton R.D.C., 1,277,000 gallons per half-year. Supply good in every respect.
 - (e) See Ditcheat report.
5. Financial particulars—
 - (a) Cost of the supply, £4,200. Raised by loan.
 - (b) Extension—£15.
 - (c) Minimum quantity paid for to Shepton Mallet R.D.C. per $\frac{1}{2}$ year, 1,277,000 gallons at 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per 1000 gallons, £18 12s. 7d.
 - (d) Farms and business premises supplied by meter; private houses and cottages on the rateable values; deficiency in income raised by special expenses rate on the parish.
6. Area supplied—The whole parish. Water is laid on to every dwelling.
7. For particulars of analysis see Ditcheat Water Supply.

WEST PENNARD.

1. Name of supply—West Pennard Water Supply.
2. Nature of the supply—
 - (a) Supply obtained from the Glastonbury Corporation. Taken by meter and distributed by branch mains through the parish. For further particulars as to *a. b. c.* see Glastonbury Supply report. The supply is supplemented by a supply taken from a spring on Pennard Hill.

4. Engineering points—
 - (a) See Glastonbury report.
 - (b) By gravitation.
 - (c) Concrete covered service reservoir. Capacity, 30,000 gallons.
 - (d) Supply taken from Glastonbury by meter. Minimum quantity paid for $\frac{1}{2}$ yearly 1,125,000 gallons. Population, 639. Ample supply.
5. Financial particulars—
 - (a) Cost of supply, £4,700. Raised by loan.
 - (b) Nil.
 - (c) Payable to Glastonbury, minimum 2,253,000 at 6d. per 1000 gallons, £56 5s. per annum.
 - (d) Farms and business premises supplied by meter ; private houses and cottages on the rateable values ; deficiency in income raised by special expenses rate on the parish.
6. Area supplied—The whole parish, with the exception of two outlying farms and a few cottages.
7. Any particulars of Analysis refer to Glastonbury Supply Report.

NORTH WOOTTON.

(Not yet completed).

1. Name of the supply—North Woolton Water Supply.
2. By whom provided—The Wells R.D. Council.
3. Nature of the supply—

(a) Taken from a spring near Worminster.	
(b) No particulars	} Satisfactory to L.G.B. Inspector.
(c) No known liability	
4. Engineering points—
 - (a) Minimum yield in dry time about 5000 gallons.
 - (b) By gravitation.
 - (c) Concrete covered service reservoir, capacity 30,000 gallons.
 - (d) Population supplied, 262. Supply estimated to be sufficient.
 - (e) Analysis satisfactory to L.G.B.
5. Financial particulars—
 - (a) Cost as per estimates, £2,600—raised by loans.
 - (b) Nil.
 - (c) Not yet ascertained.
 - (d) Farms and business places supplied by meter ; private houses and cottages on the rateable values ; deficiency in income to be raised by special expenses rate on the parish.
6. Area supplied—The whole parish, with the exception of a few outlying houses.
7. Analysis satisfactory to L.G. Board.

GODNEY.

1. Name of supply—A branch of the Street U.D.C. Supply. Included in the Street “area of supply.”

The whole Parish provided with supply, with the exception of a few outlying dwellings.

For further particulars see Street U.D.C. Supply.

SHARPHAM.

1. Name of supply—Sharpham Water Supply.
2. By whom provided—The Wells R.D.C.
3. Nature of supply—
 - (a) Supply obtained by agreement with the Street U.D.C. and taken by a branch main from their main. For particulars *a. b. c.* see Street report.
4. Engineering points—
 - (a) See Street report.
 - (b) By gravitation.
 - (c) No reservoir. Branch main and 2 standpipes.
 - (d) Taken by meter. Supply not limited.
 - (e) Considered satisfactory.
5. Financial particulars—
 - (a) Cost of supply, £300. Raised by loan.
 - (b) Nil.
 - (c) Minimum quantity paid for, 60,000 gallons, at 1/- per 1000 gallons. Expenditure raised by special rate on the parish.
6. Area supplied—Only 17 dwellings in the Parish, and very scattered. Those requiring water get it from the 2 standpipes.
7. Particulars as to any analysis see Street report.

BUTLEIGH.

A small supply is provided and owned by Mr. R. Neville Grenville, the principal owner of the soil.

It is obtained from a spring and open reservoir, conveyed by pipes to about 30 farms and private houses. The remainder of the Parish is supplied principally by wells.

MEARE.

A scheme for supplying Meare has been a long time under consideration by the Council and L.G. Board.

WALTON.

A scheme for supplying Walton has been under consideration a long time by the Council and L.G. Board.

**Sewerage and
Drainage.**

As reported in previous years, there is no general system of drainage in this district, nor regular system for the disposal of excrement, the greater part of the latter being placed on the land.

At Chewton Mendip, Draycott and Rodney Stoke, Meare, West Pennard, Walton, Dinder and Wookey, there are sewers with house drains discharging either into the river, or on the moor, or into the ditches, or on to the land, as they are situated respectively. Priddy, Henton, Easton, Westbury-sub-Mendip and Horrington, have no drains. The Inspector for No. 1 District reports, "9 new drains laid and 1 new sewer repaired," and the Inspector for No. 2 District reports an extension of the sewer at West Pennard and 8 defective drains remedied. He also reports 29 defective privies dealt with, the majority of cases being conversions into dry earth closets.

Privies with cesspits are in common use in the district, and are a source of danger.

There is no general system of scavenging in the district, the house refuse being removed by the occupiers.

**Wells Sewage
Works.**

No complaint has been received concerning these works during the year, and they appear to be working satisfactorily.

**Prevalence of
Disease.**

Fifty-one cases of notifiable disease (excluding tuberculosis), have been reported during the year, against 29 in 1913.

Six cases of Diphtheria from the Wells Out St. Cuthbert district.

Five cases of Erysipelas—2 in the Wells Out district, 1 from Walton, 1 from Butleigh and 1 from West Pennard.

Thirty-nine cases of Scarlet Fever—16 from the Wells Out district, 2 from Dinder, 1 from Meare, 19 from Walton and 1 from West Pennard.

One case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum from Chewton Mendip. This was attended to by the District Nurse. No arrangement has as yet been made by the R.D. Council for nursing in these cases.

Fifty-seven cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year, and 4 cases of other forms of the disease (these include the cases notified from Institutions in the District—32 from the Wells Out St. Cuthbert district, 1 from Westbury-sub-Mendip, 3 from Rodney Stoke, 3 from Wookey, 1 from Priddy, 3 from Chewton Mendip, 1 from North Wootton, 1 from Meare, 2 from Godney, 3 from Walton, 1 from Butleigh, 1 from Baltonsborough, and 9 from the Somerset and Bath Asylum.

The necessary proceedings in the case of notifiable disease have been carried out by the Inspectors of Nuisances and myself.

With the exception of a Private Sanatorium in the district (Hillgrove), no hospital accommodation is provided for tuberculosis patients (apart from the Workhouse).

Attendance is made weekly by the County Council's Tuberculosis Medical Officer at Glastonbury, and a considerable number of patients from this district have taken advantage of this Institution. Some of whom have been sent to Sanatoria.

During the year cases of Chicken Pox have been reported to me and excluded from school attendance from Walton, Butleigh Wootton, West Pennard and Westbury-sub-Mendip; Scarlet Fever from the Wells Out district, Walton and West Pennard; Measles from West Pennard and Westbury; Whooping Cough from Butleigh Wootton; Diphtheria from the Wells Out district; Ringworm from Walton.

The Horrington School was closed for a short period by the Chief School Medical Officer (Dr. Savage), owing to the prevalence of Scalet Fever and Diphtheria in the vicinity.

The inspection of the children attending the various public schools in the district is carried out by the Medical Inspectors and Dentists appointed by the County Council.

The sanitary conditions of the schools and their water supply are in my opinion satisfactory. These I have visited during the year upon the notification of disease, and given the necessary instructions.

**Housing of the
Working Classes.**

In conjunction with the Inspectors of Nuisances I have made periodical inspections in various parts of the district.

Three cases of overcrowding have been dealt with.

A Local Government Board enquiry was held at Meare during the early part of the year relative to the application of the R.D. Council to build cottages there suitable for the working classes.

The consent of the L.G. Board was given and 7 cottages are now in course of erection.

The following is a summarized report of the work done under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909—during the year :—

1. Sanitary District	Rural District of Wells.
2. New houses erected during 1914 ..	6.
3. Number of houses inspected during 1914 under the Housing Act, 1909 ..	316.
4. Results of inspections of the fresh houses inspected during 1914, classified as follows :—	
(a) Number reported as unfit for habitation	Nil.
(b) Number defective, but with defects not sufficient to report as unfit for habitation	103.
(c) Number without recorded sanitary defects	213.
5. Action taken and results with regard to houses reported as unfit during 1913 and 1914, as follows :—	For houses reported during
	1913 1914
Number so reported	6 Nil
Closing order made	3 „
Made fit without a closing order ..	2 „
Still unfit, but no closing order made ..	Nil „
Demolished	„ „
Put in repair after closing order ..	„ „
Still closed at end of 1914	3 „
6. Action taken with regard to defective houses, but not sufficient to report as unfit, as follows :—	In houses first examined during
	1913 1914
Number so examined	142 103
Number with defects remedied by end of 1914	27 124
Number still defective at end of 1914 ..	5 88
	3 of which are still voluntarily closed.
Number not yet visited to ascertain if defects are remedied	Nil Nil
7. Cases of overcrowding dealt with during the year	1 3
8. Parishes in which there is evidence of shortage of houses, and steps taken to remedy	A few houses would be acceptable in West Pennard, Walton and North Wootton. Seven new houses being erected at Meare.

Supervision is exercised over the erection of new houses in the district. A certificate of occupation being granted by the R.D. Council only on a satisfactory report from the Inspector.

Isolation Hospital

The Rural District Council propose relinquishing the cottages held at Worminster—owing to their inaccessability. The question of erecting a permanent or temporary building for infectious cases has been under the consideration of the Council during the year—but as yet no definite decision has been arrived at.

Disinfection Means.

Fumigation by Sulphur Dioxide or Formalin. Disinfectants, when necessary, are supplied by the R.D. Council gratuitously, and the Inspectors of Nuisances disinfect premises from which infectious diseases have been notified.

Permit me again to draw the attention of the Council to the necessity of providing a suitable spraying apparatus for the disinfection of rooms, also a disinfecting apparatus for clothing, bedding, &c., the present method of disinfection being, in my opinion, totally inadequate.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Workshops.

A Register under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, under the Order of 1885, is kept.

There are now 350 persons registered in this District under the Order.

The Inspector of No. 1 District reports that “all the premises have been kept under inspection, and most of them are in a fairly clean and satisfactory state, some have been put in order during the year and in other cases notices have been served to repair.”

The Inspector of No. 2 District reports that “many of the cowsheds are still of a poor description, and better attention to their cleanliness is desirable.”

In this district the cows are usually kept and milked on the land during the greater part of the year, being housed in the sheds only for a very short period during the winter months.

The dairy produce of the district is considerable. The Council’s regulations contain directions for securing the cleanliness of milk stores, milk shops, and milk vessels used for containing milk for sale.

Slaughter houses (10), and Bakehouses (8), inspected, and are generally in a satisfactory condition.

The Public Schools in the district are visited, and their sanitary condition and water supply kept under observation.

No Bye Laws are as yet in force in the district.

No case of Bovine Tuberculosis has been notified during the year, and no case of unsound food or diseased meat has been brought to my notice.

One case of Anthrax has been reported and dealt with by the police.

Factory and Work-shops Act, 1901.

Inspections are made of the Factories, Workshops, and Home Workers’ premises by the Inspectors and myself, and their sanitation, ventilation, means of escape in case of fire, and the provision of sanitary conveniences, attended to.

Factories	..	..	14	Bakehouses	..	..	8
Workshops and Workplaces	131			Outworkers	..	..	21

I append Tables of Statistics as required by the Local Government Board, together with the Reports of the Inspectors of Nuisances, to whose co-operation I am again greatly indebted.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE W. EGLINTON.

Reports and Summary of Inspectors of Nuisances.

No. 1 DISTRICT.

	No. of cases.
Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation—houses done up or closed ...	2
Dwelling houses overcrowded ...	2
Dilapidated dwelling houses repaired ...	5
Dwelling houses filthy and verminous ...	2
Infected dwellings—occupiers served with notice as to isolation of patients and disinfection. Including fifteen cases of Tuberculosis. Disinfectants supplied by the Council ...	38
Dwellings and clothing disinfected as directed by the Medical Officer of Health, including bungalows and shelters used for tuberculous cases...	27
New dwelling houses erected, for which certificates of occupation, under the Public Health Water Act 1878, have been granted by the Council ...	5
Nuisances arising from foul and choked drains, foul accumulations, &c. ...	12
New drains laid ...	9
Old sewer repaired ...	1
Animals kept in such a state as to be a nuisance ...	2
Slaughter houses (6) and public school premises (11) inspected (no bye-laws in force) ...	17
Samples of drinking water sent to the County laboratory ...	2
Courtyards repaved ...	2
Formal notices served by the Inspector ...	67

There has also been a large number of cases of Whooping Cough reported from the various schools, I have visited the homes of the children, and given instructions *re* keeping them home from school.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

There are now registered in the District 9 Factories, 24 Workshops, 63 Workplaces, 5 Bake-houses and 5 Outworkers—total 106.

These have all been inspected during the year, and are generally in a fairly clean and satisfactory condition.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885.

There are now 206 persons registered under this Order, all the premises have been kept under inspection, and most of them are in a fairly clean and satisfactory state, some have been put in order during the year, and in other cases notices have been served to repair.

Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

During the year I have, in conjunction with the Medical Officer of Health, inspected 316 dwelling houses in the Out Parish of St. Cuthbert, also I have made re-inspections in the Parishes of Rodney Stoke, Wookey and Westbury, and reported thereon to the Council.

The following is a summary of the cases reported to the Council, and dealt with by order :—

PARISH OF RODNEY STOKE.

Total number of houses ...	172
Number with defects not remedied December 31st, 1913 ...	9
Number with defects remedied December 31st, 1914 ...	9

PARISH OF WESTBURY.

Total number of houses ...	137
Number with defects not remedied December 31st, 1913 ...	17
Number with defects remedied December 31st, 1914 ...	16
One house still closed ...	1

PARISH OF WOOCKEY.

Total number of houses ...	218
Number with defects not remedied December 31st, 1913 ...	6
Number with defects remedied December 31st, 1914 ...	2
Number with defects not remedied, two of which are now void, December 31st, 1914*	4

PARISH OF OUT ST. CUTHBERT.

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	316
Number of houses without recorded defects	...	..	...	...	213
Number of houses with recorded defects	...	...	...	...	103
Number of houses with defects remedied December 31st, 1914	...	...	...	...	45
Number of houses with defects not remedied December 31st, 1914	...	...	...	...	58

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

13 . 2 . 15.

PHILIP WILLIAMS.

No. 2 DISTRICT.

Inspector of Nuisances Report for year ended December 31st, 1914.

	No. of Cases.
Infectious Disease : Occupier of dwellings served with notices as to isolation of patients and disinfection of dwellings (disinfectants supplied), 10 cases being tuberculosis ...	29
Disinfection : Dwellings and clothing disinfected as directed by the Medical Officer of Health, including 1 shelter used by tuberculous patient ...	24
Overcrowding : Number of cases dealt with ...	1
New dwellings : Number of certificates issued ...	1
Animals : Pigs kept so as to be a nuisance ...	1
Sewers : Extension at West Pennard ...	1
Drains : Defective drains remedied ...	8
Privies : Defective privies dealt with, the majority of cases being conversions into dry earth closets ...	29
Foul accumulations : Cases dealt with ...	7
Dangerous buildings : Case dealt with ...	1
Filthy dwellings : Cases dealt with ...	3
Knacker's yard : License granted ...	1
Bakehouses : Inspected, all in fair order ...	3
Slaughter Houses : „ „ ...	4
Notices served and letters written by Inspector ...	75
Water supplies : Attention has been given to the prevention of waste and pollution of the Council's Water Supplies.	
Local Government Inspector accompanied on inspection of dwellings at Meare.	
County Medical Officer of Health accompanied on inspection of dwellings and water supply at Meare.	

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

The number registered : Factories, 5 ; Workshops and Workplaces, 44 ; Home Workers, 16. These are kept under observation, and are generally in a satisfactory condition.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885.

The number of persons registered is 144, all of whom are cowkeepers. Many of the cowsheds are still of a poor description, and better attention to their cleanliness is desirable.

Bovine Anthrax : One case notified and dealt with by the Police Authority.

Bovine Tuberculosis : No case notified.

Two liquid manure tanks provided to abate nuisance at North Wootton.

Housing and Town Planning Inspection.

The whole of the 979 dwellings in the eight parishes comprising the No. 2 district were reported as having been inspected last year.

The following is an amended table of particulars, &c. :—

No. 2 DISTRICT.

Table of Particulars of Housing Inspections for years 1911-14.

Date of Inspection.	Year.	No. of houses inspected.	Without recorded defects.	With recorded minor defects.	Minor defects not remedied.	Minor defects not remedied.	Unfit for habitation	Closed or rendered fit.	Closing Order served, still occupied.	Houses with only 1 bedroom.	Houses with 2 bedrooms.	Houses with 3 or more bedrooms.	Population in 1911.	Average No. of Inmates in houses.	Void houses, available for occupation.
Year 1911	Meare	226	126	90	86	4	10	8	2	16	95	115	969	4.3	Nil.
" "	Godney	68	44	21	20	1	3	2	1	6	24	38	299	4.4	4—very poor ones.
" "	Walton	98	48	48	45	3	2	2	"	5	40	53	462	4.8	1—a mile from Village.
" 1912	Sharpsham	118	114	4	3	1	"	"	"	"	7	11	69	3.8	Nil.
" "	North Wootton	67	43	21	21	"	3	2	1	4	16	47	262	4.0	Nil.
" "	West Pennard	180	115	59	59	"	6	2	4	6	61	113	639	3.5	2 { very poor ones, a mile from Village.
" 1913	Baltonsborough	147	93	53	46	7	1	"	1	3	50	94	509	3.4	3, Rental too high for working men, the others poor ones.
" "	Butleigh	175	119	56	33	23	"	"	"	6	69	100	636	3.6	9—fair cottages.
		979	602	352	313	39	25	16	9	46	362	571	3845	3.975	23

NOTE.—All Notices, except "Closing Orders," served under the provisions of the Public Health Acts, applicable to each particular case.

EDWIN H. PADFIELD,

Rural District Council of Wells.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health.

FOR THE YEAR 1914.

WELLS:

Dowman Woodhams, Printer, 5, High Street.